

POLICE investigating the assassination of Mafia chief Sam [Momo] Giancana said Friday that he was cut down by his own crime syndicate to keep him from talking.

Giancana, who went out of his way to keep a low profile, had most recently made headlines as the reputed mastermind of a plot by the Mafia and the United States Central Intelligence Agency to kill Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Under a grant of immunity from prosecution, Giancana recently made four appearances before a federal grand jury probing his ties to the underworld, and was scheduled to appear one more time.

Police believe Giancana's fellow bosses within the syndicate feared he would break under the pressure and spill mob secrets, that could result in other gang leaders being indicted, or draw enough publicity to spark a congressional investigation.

GIANCANA, a widower who had just turned 67, was found shot to death in a basement kitchen of his fortress-like Oak Park home Thursday night.

Giancana was shot once in the mouth and five times in the neck, a traditional underworld warning to others who might be inclined to talk too much.

The fact that Giancana's home at 1147 S. Wenonah Av. is so well protected indicated Giancana had to have admitted his killer, and that it was somebody whom he trusted, police said.

Authorities said Giancana recently underwent gall bladder surgery in Houston, and returned home to recuperate Thursday.

A WELCOME-home party was held in the home Thursday night, attended by relatives and crime syndicate friends, including Charles [Chuckie] English, jukebox racketeer and gambling kingpin, and Giancana's longtime bodyguard and general flunky, Dominic [Butch] Blasi.

Also present, they said, were two of Giancana's three daughters, and his sons in law.

GIANCANA 'SILENCED'

Federal authorities speculated that the assassin may have been in the group that attended the party, and possibly was the last to leave. They said that if the slaying was a crime syndicate execution, it could not have been carried out without going thru Anthony [Big Tuna] Accardo, the mob's elder statesman.

Giancana reportedly met just two weeks ago with Accardo and Joseph [Doves] Aiuppa, semi-retired Cicero rackets boss, to find out whether he was still in good standing with the mob.

Police at the scene found that the aging crime chief had been hit by six .22-caliber bullets, leading police to theorize that the hit-man had secreted the small caliber pistol on his person, possibly tucked into his belt under a sports shirt, so as not to arouse Giancana's suspicion.

"GIANCANA was under extreme pressure," a police official said. "He was probably paranoid, and was being extremely careful whom he associated with."

Joseph DiLeonardi, citywide homicide commander, said the fact the execution took place in Giancana's own home, while he was preparing an Italian snack, "would be of the greatest embarrassment for a mob chieftain."

Oak Park police were being assisted in the murder investigation by detectives from the Chicago Police Intelligence Division, the Illinois Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the state's attorney's office.

Police and firemen, called to the Giancana home at 11:53 p.m., found the mobster lying face up in a pool of blood. His right hand was extended above his head and his left arm crooked at his side. His legs were crossed at the ankles.

HE WAS wearing a check-

BY MOB PALS: POLICE

ered blue-and-white sports shirt, brown slacks, and black house slippers, and was apparently preparing a dish of sausage and spinach when he was shot.

The gas on the stove was still turned on under the frying pan, but the food was not burned, indicating the slaying had taken place only a short time earlier.

The body was discovered by Joseph DiPersio, 81, Giancana's handyman and confidant, who with his wife maintained the Oak Park home.

Police said Giancana's wallet, containing only his driver's license and identification papers, lay near the body. In the dead man's pocket was a money clip containing \$1,453.

Authorities said they expected to question Accardo, as well as Giancana's latest flame, identified as Los Angeles showgirl Carolyn Morris, 38, who was a frequent visitor to his room in Houston's Methodist Hospital.

GIANCANA entered the hospital May 12, and underwent surgery for the removal of his gall bladder the following day. His surgeon was the best money can buy, Dr. Michael DeBakey, the noted heart transplant specialist.

He checked out of the hospital 10 days later, but returned May 24 for treatment of post-operative problems, investigators said. He was discharged "in good condition" Tuesday afternoon.

Police said they wanted to question Miss Morris, attractive brunette divorcee, about Giancana's associates. She is reported to have spent time at the lavish apartment he maintained in Mexico City and Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Federal investigators, long familiar with Giancana, tended to discount his reputed CIA involvement as having anything to do with the slaying.

If anything, they said, the killer, or his sponsors, may have felt that in view of the CIA publicity this was an opportune time to dispatch the mob leader and divert suspicion.

P-Wattley, Philip
Whisler, Weldon
GIANCANA, Sam
ORG / MAFIA

OAK PARK Police Chief Wilbur Reichert said authorities also are looking into the similarity of the Giancana slaying to the shooting of Anthony J. Battaglia, 61, brother of the late Sam [Teetz] Battaglia, who succeeded Giancana as boss of the Chicago crime syndicate.

Like Giancana, Battaglia had been shot in the chin and neck by small caliber bullets, fired at close range, outside his La Grange Park home April 29.

Killers also used .22-caliber bullets to assassinate Van Corbin, 53, a contractor who built homes for crime syndicate gangsters, including Accardo, in the summer of 1971.

Reichert said Giancana's slayer used an automatic pistol that ejected all six shell casings, found on the floor near the body.

Harold Fitzsimmons, deputy chief of investigators for Oak Park Police, said that despite the party held in Giancana's honor Thursday night, authorities found no full ash trays, no drinking glasses, and no evidence that anyone else had been in the home.

THE ELDERLY DiPersio, who lived with his wife on the premises, said he and Giancana worked on a leaky water pipe early in the evening. When they finished, he said he asked Giancana, "Do you have anything more for me?"

He said Giancana told him, "No. I'll call you [if I do]."

The old man said he went upstairs, and watched the Tonight Show on television. Before retiring, he called downstairs to see whether Giancana wanted anything else. When he got no response, he went down and discovered the body.

Neither DiPersio nor his wife reported hearing any shots.

Peter Vavra, chief of the strike force for the Justice Department in Chicago, said the government was on the verge of seeking an indictment.

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